

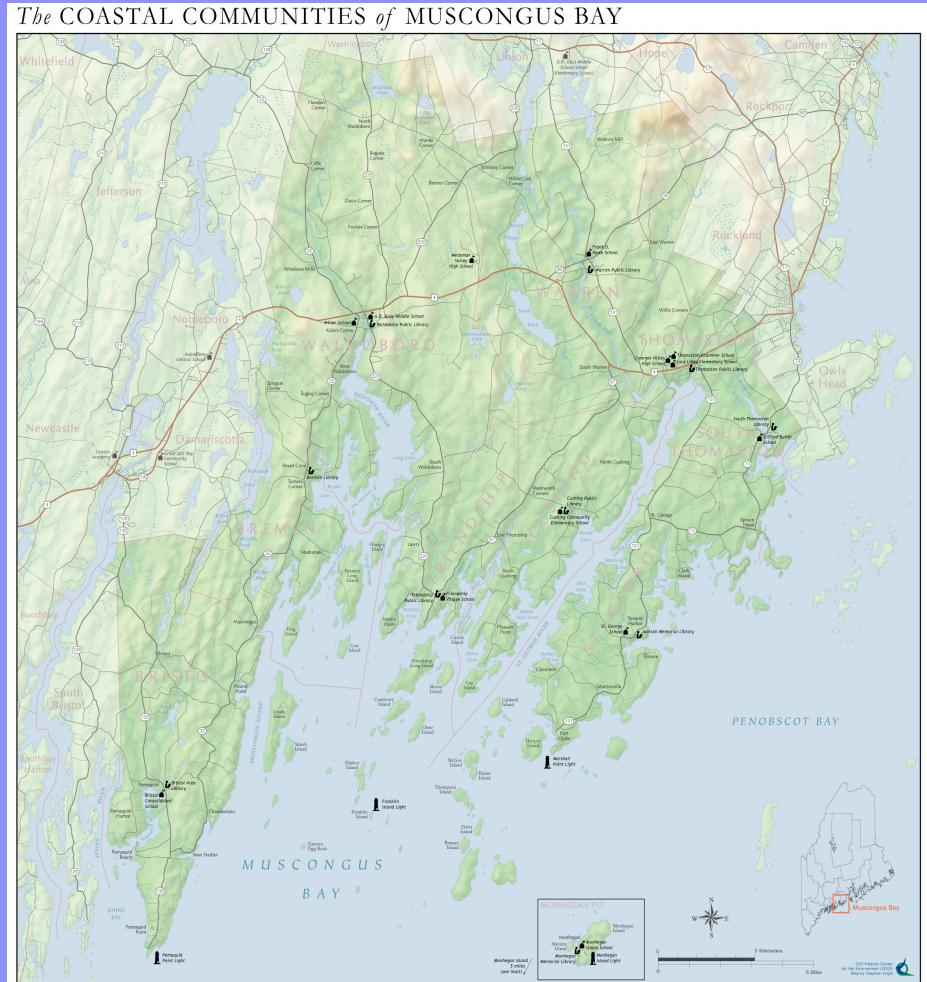


Muscongus Bay Project

Insights from our Bay Management Pilot

Muscongus Bay, Maine

- **SIZE**: 182 mi² of open water (21 mi² in river estuaries) and 10 mi² of islands
- **JURIS**: 9 coastal towns, 1 island plantation, 2 counties, 4 school districts & 1 island school, 0 major “service centers”
- **POPUL**: 24,800 permanent residents (2000 census)
- **PROPERTY**: ~ 12,700 housing units, ~ 17,900 parcels, ~ 31 % seasonal property owners



Community Involvement ☒

Initial belief: If bay management addresses issues that communities of an embayment share, then those communities must be involved in governance

End Vision: Co-Management
Communities around the bay collaborating on the management of regional issues in accordance with fundamental state policies and principles.



Bay management: a solution in search of a problem?

VS.

Are there problems we share in this bay that would benefit from a regional approach to resolution?



Local Reaction to Concept

(+) *The idea resonates at the local level.*

- ✓ It generates interest in most sectors.
- ✓ People accept that there are issues which could be managed better at a bay scale than a state or municipal scale.

(-) *The idea invites caution.*

- ✓ No one wants to create more work for local governments or organizations, especially without more resources.
- ✓ No one wants to back a big idea if it comes with too many strings attached.
- ✓ Often easier to let someone else take the responsibility for tough decisions

Realizing Bay Management



- Bay management programs will not emerge from a policy vacuum or from a policy vice.
- Develop an enabling policy which fosters and guides the emergence of bay management programs at different stages (e.g. incubation, recognized program, management authority)
- Do not establish a single governance structure for all bays until efforts at the local level develop evidence that soundly demonstrates which core components are necessary.

Reality Check

Are local entities around Muscongus Bay ready to manage the bay ? NO

Would a mandated governance structure change that? NO



Next step for this bay:

- ✓ Incubate the idea locally
- ✓ Build capacity for collaboration
- ✓ Develop information base to support decision making



Local
Government ?



Stakeholder group?



Diverse group?

Who Incubates the Concept?

Why a Diverse Group?

More democratic - represents community composition

Not identified with any one agenda or viewpoint that predetermines outcome or colors perceptions

Allows public to focus on the message, not the messenger

Brings a range of skills, capacities, resources, perspectives and networks to incubation process - different members can take on different tasks

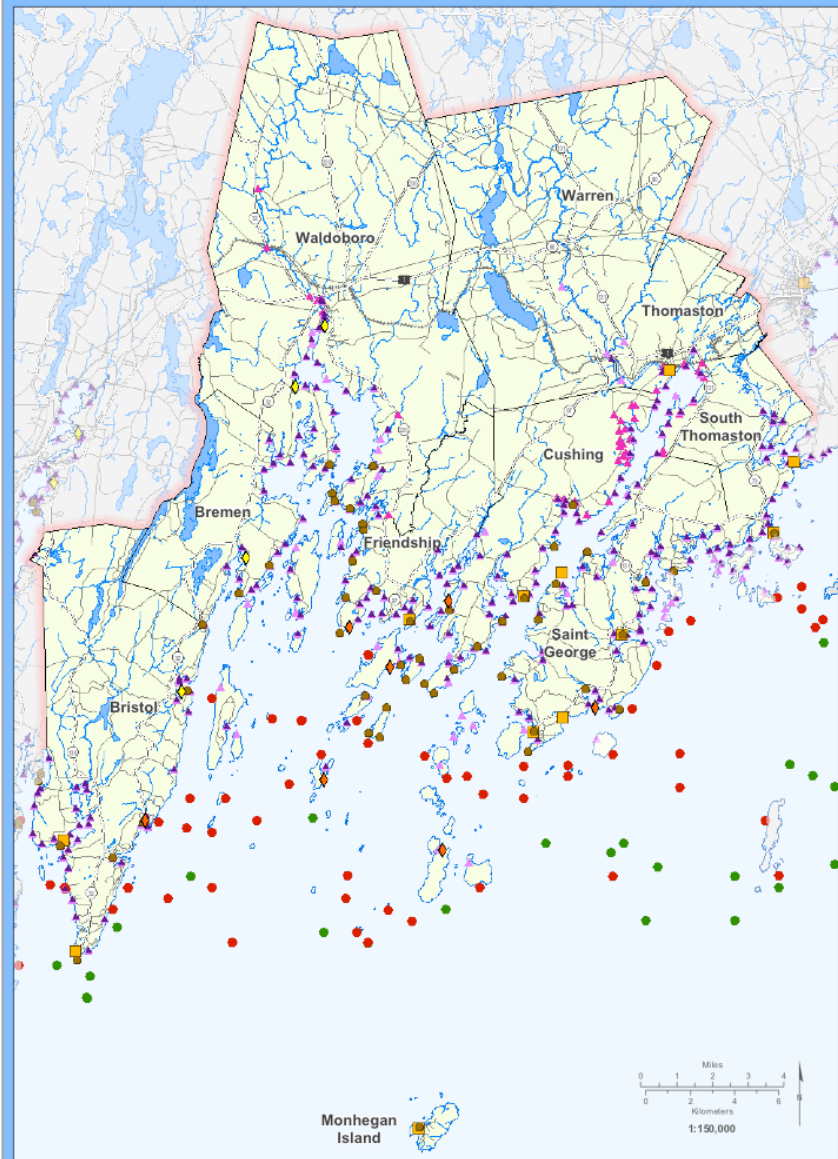


How Incubate?

- ✓ Develop understanding of local issues ripe for bay-wide management
- ✓ Foster regional identity among bay communities
- ✓ Develop interest in working as a region - local collaboration



- ✓ Facilitate collaborative approaches to specific issues
- ✓ Assess elements necessary for a formal bay management structure



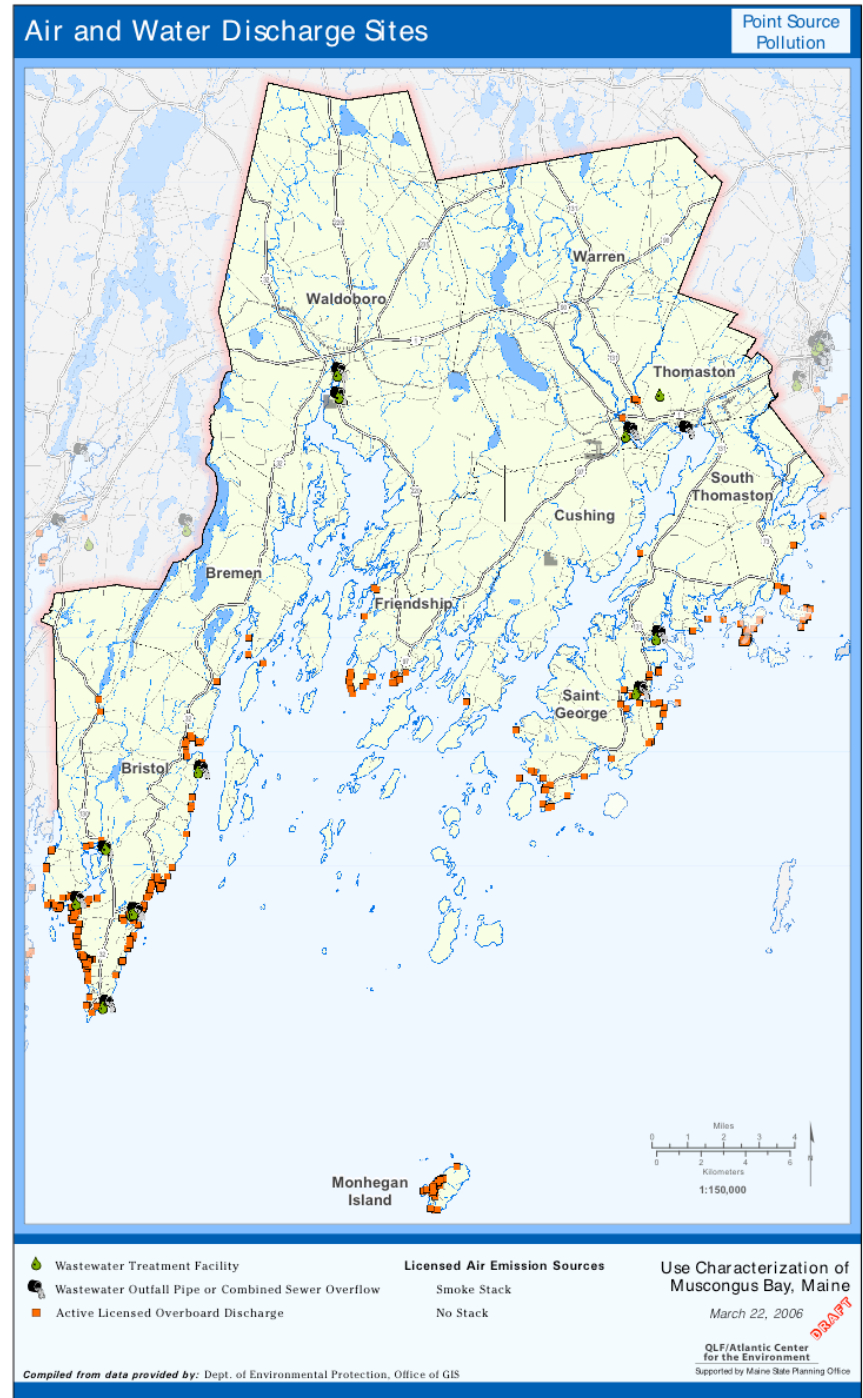
Compiled from data provided by: The Lobster Conservancy, Dept. of Marine Resources, Office of GIS

Collaboration Needs

- Coordination & communication
- Common Understanding of Issue
- Shared goal & purpose
- Shared pool of information
- Graduated approach

Information Base

- Data at bay scale
(baseline & monitoring)
 - Environmental: oceanographic, physiographic, biological aspects
 - Human: social, economic, cultural, historical
- Tools:
 - GIS at bay scale
 - New Communication vehicles (website)



Muscongus Bay Project

- Building regional identity by improving information base
- Identifying the fundamental management goal
- Clarifying who should be involved
- Investigating new strategies



Thank You

On behalf of QLF and the members of the
Muscongus Bay Project Steering Committee

